

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1 and 15 have been amended to omit reference characters and to specify that the originally recited separate image areas are the image area of the claimed superimposed image and its surrounding image area. Claims 2, 3, 5-8, 10, 14, and 16-29 have been amended to omit reference characters and provide proper claim dependency. The amendments are believed to overcome the objections to claims 5-14 and 18-29.

Claims 1, 2, and 15-17 were rejected, under 35 USC §102(b), as being anticipated by Klink et al. (US 5,548,341). Claims 3 and 4 were rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Klink. To the extent these rejections may be deemed applicable to the amended claims, Applicants respectfully traverse.

The invention defined by independent claims 1 and 15 relates to the superposition of an additional image on a video signal and to the subsequent processing (e.g., motion compensation) of the combined video signal. More particularly, the same control signal is employed for mixing the video signal and controlling the subsequent processing, so that the mixed video signal is

processed differently for the image area of the superimposed image and the surrounding image area.

Klink's disclosure relates to a TV receiver that is capable of simultaneously displaying two images, in particular in the form of "picture-in-picture" processing. As can be seen in Klink's Fig. 2, video data from different sources (i.e., a main-picture video source and an inset-picture video source) are combined for display. The combined video signal undergoes a non-linear processing that is generally applied for improving the quality of video for display (e.g., black stretch or white stretch processing of the luminance component of the video signal). To avoid artifacts, such as the trailing contrast bars shown in Fig. 5, Klink discloses deactivating the non-linear processing for the insert image part, so that the non-linear processing is applied only to the main image part. Accordingly, the processing differs for the main image area and the insert image area. Klink also discloses sophisticated circuitry for enabling and disabling the non-linear processing for the respective image areas, based on picture-in-picture timing pulse S7 (see Klink's Figs. 2 and 4), so that only minimal hardware effort is required.

However, Klink does not anticipate the particular approach of the present invention as defined by claims 1 and 15.

Specifically, Klink does not disclose employing the same control signal for both: (1) mixing video signals from different sources and (2) subsequent processing. Instead, as discussed above in connection with Klink's Fig. 2, Klink discloses employing picture identification signal S7 to control the processing of the combined image picture. Picture identification signal S7 is provided by mixing processor 106 (see Klink col. 4, lines 38-50). On the other hand, the mixing procedure performed in processor 106 is controlled by a time division multiplex switch, not by picture identification signal S7 (see col. 1, line 62, through col. 2, line 22).

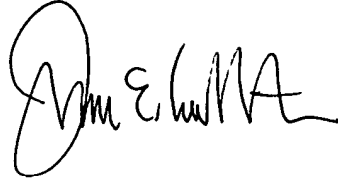
By contrast to Klink's disclosure, Fig. 14 of the present application shows the same control signal being applied to both: (1) the mixing processing and (2) the subsequent processing of the combined video data. And this feature is reflected in claims 1 and 15.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Klink does not anticipate the subject matter defined by claims 1 and 15. Therefore, allowance of claims 1 and 15 and all claims dependent therefrom is warranted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James E. Ledbetter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" being more prominent.

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JEL/DWW/att

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